

altering results in that further set of criteria being checked, in a subsequent validation operation, prior to issuing the signal.

4. *A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the act of altering results in that further set of criteria being checked in a next validation operation prior to issuing the signal.*

5. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering includes altering the combination in a manner determined by which sets of criteria have been met in a plurality of previous validation operations.*

Sub 1
925
6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering includes causing a plurality of further sets of criteria, associated with a plurality of currency articles [coins] of a common currency, to be included within the sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal.

7. *A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the act of altering comprises causing one of the further sets of criteria to be considered prior to issuing the signal, and causing one of the first-mentioned sets criteria to be considered after the signal is issued.*

8. *A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the act of altering is capable of causing any of the first-mentioned sets to be considered after issuing the signal.*

93
9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which a said further one of the sets of criteria represents an article which is to be rejected.

10. *A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one set of acceptance criteria considered prior to issuing the signal is adjusted in response to determining that an article meets the further one of the sets of criteria.*

11. *A method as claimed in claim 1, including storing data indicating the number of articles which have met at least one further set of criteria in such a manner as to enable downloading of the data.*

Sub 1
925
12. (Amended) A method of validating articles of currency [in which the measured] comprising:

measuring properties of an article [are checked];
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article[, to make];

Did 04
making a sequence of determinations as to whether the article is of one of said types[, the method comprising:]; and
 altering the sequence for a subsequent validation operation.

13. *A method as claimed in claim 12, including issuing a signal indicating that the article is not genuine after a plurality of determinations and depending on the results of those determinations, and prior to further determinations being made.*

Sub Did
 14. (Amended) A method of validating articles of currency[, in which the measured] comprising:
measuring properties of an article [are checked];
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of the predetermined type[, the method comprising:]; and
 automatically preventing a single one of the sets from being considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

B3
 15. (Amended) A method of validating articles of currency[, in which the measured] comprising:
measuring properties of an article [are checked];
checking the properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of the predetermined type[, the method comprising:]; and
 automatically causing a single different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during a validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

16. *Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:*
memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and
a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,

wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically preventing one of the sets from being effective during a subsequent validation operation.

17. *Apparatus for validating articles of currency comprising:*

memory for storing data defining a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article; and

a processor operable to compare measured properties of an article with the criteria, and further operable to permit the criteria to be rendered effective or ineffective and to increment a credit count if the article is of the predetermined type for which the criteria are effective,

wherein the apparatus is capable of responding to recognition of a single article of one of the predetermined types by automatically enabling a set of criteria, to be effective during a subsequent validation operation.

Please add the following new claims:

--18. (New) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:

measuring properties of an article;

checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type, the number of sets checked being substantially equal to the maximum possible to be checked during said validation period; and

wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one of the sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.--

19. (New) A method of validating articles of currency comprising:

measuring properties of an article;

checking the measured properties against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article and the predetermined types belonging

to the same currency, during a validation period prior to issuing a signal indicating whether the article is an article of a said predetermined type; and wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one but not all of said sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article of the same currency, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.--

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 7, 2000. A petition for a one-month extension of time to respond is included, and a check for \$266 is also enclosed herewith to cover the extension fee and the fee for two additional independent claims.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended, and claims 18 and 19 have been added. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Dependent claims 6 and 9 have been amended to correct typographical errors and/or correct formal matters. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's remarks, below, are preceded by quotations of the related comments of the examiner, in small, bold-face type.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

1. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims are indefinite because the body of the claims does not agree with the preamble of the claims. The preamble is directed to a method of validating articles of currency but no articles of currency validating steps are included in the body of the claims.

Independent claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. In particular, the preamble has been shortened to recite "a method of validating articles", and then a recitation of the appropriate elements follow. The